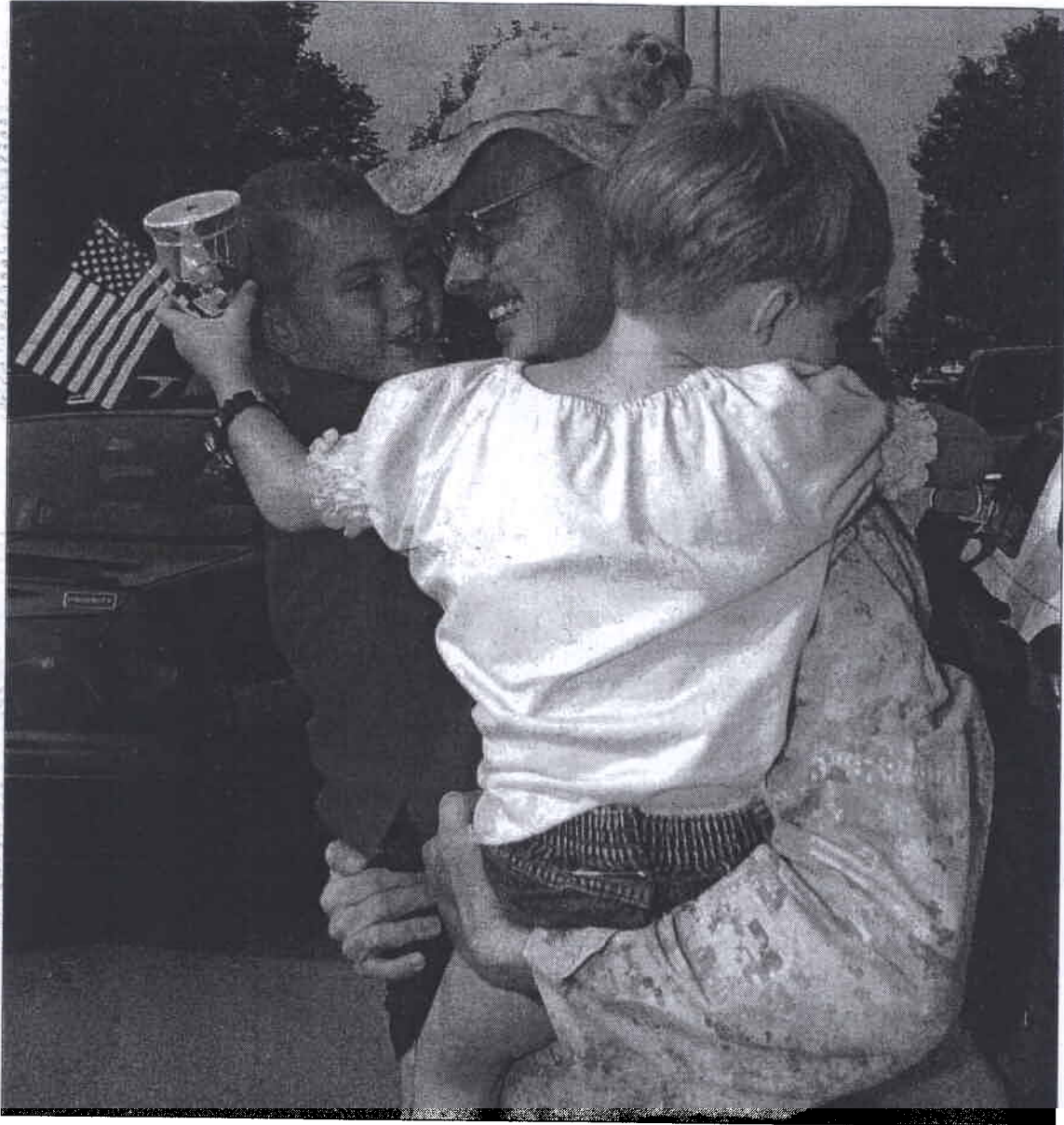


# Cherry Point Marines return from Iraqi duty



**Staff Sgt. Cummings is greeted** by his children, Marissa and Patrick, after returning to Cherry Point Tuesday morning. Bob Murphy/Sun Journal

**CHERRY POINT** — Marines from Marine Wing Communications Squadron 28 arrived home from Iraq early Tuesday to the cheers and well-wishes of friends and family members, who celebrated their return with a picnic.

The 125 Marines with MWCS-28 spent six months in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Maj. Dan Morris, executive officer for the returning detachment, said he was not deployed with them, but he credited his Marines with an "outstanding job."

"They have to build a communications system from top to bottom, including power and infrastructure, not only for local communications and data

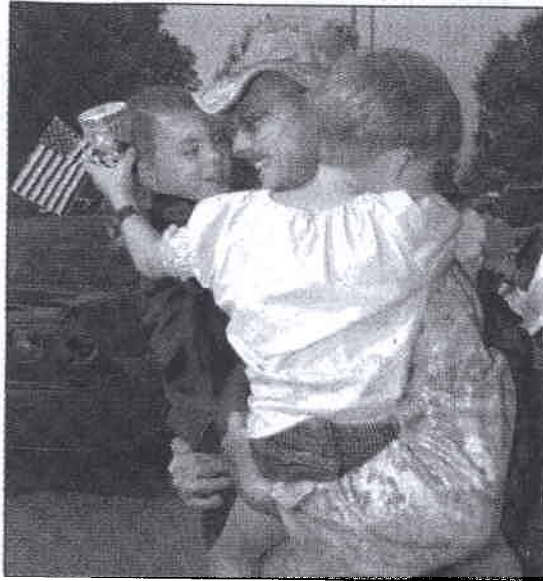
servers, but also the long haul communications that reach out of Iraq into other areas within the CENTCOM (central command) and also back to the United States," he said.

Morris said the Marines worked as a team to provide telephones, radios, and Internet connectivity, as well as the power and maintenance it takes to keep them up and running.

"Communication is critical," he said. "Not only do they, first and foremost, provide command and control communications for operations — probably just as important to a lot of folks out there is the morale and welfare aspect, which makes it a little easier to stay in touch with the families."

While they were deployed, the MWCS-28 Spartans provided communications support of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. They also provided detachments to units, including the 22nd and 24th Marine Expeditionary Units, in support of combat operations throughout Iraq.

# Cherry Point unit back from Iraq



FREEDOM ENC/BOB MURPHY

**Daddy's home:** Staff Sgt. Cummings is greeted by his children, Marissa and Patrick.

## Communications squadron's service included detachments with 22nd, 24th MEUs

BY PAT COLEMAN  
FREEDOM ENC

CHERRY POINT — Marines from Marine Wing Communications Squadron 28 arrived home from Iraq early Tuesday to the cheers and well-wishes of friends and family members, who celebrated their return with a picnic.

The 125 Marines with MWCS-28 spent six months in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Maj. Dan Morris, executive officer for the returning detachment, said he was not deployed with them, but he credited his Marines with an "outstanding job."

"They have to build a communications system from top to bottom, including power and infrastructure, not only for local communications and data servers, but also the long-haul communications that reach out of Iraq into other areas within the CENTCOM (central command) and also back to the United States," he said.

Morris said the Marines worked as a team to provide telephones, radios and Internet connectivity, as well as the power and maintenance it takes to keep them up and running.

"Communication is critical," Mor-

ris said.

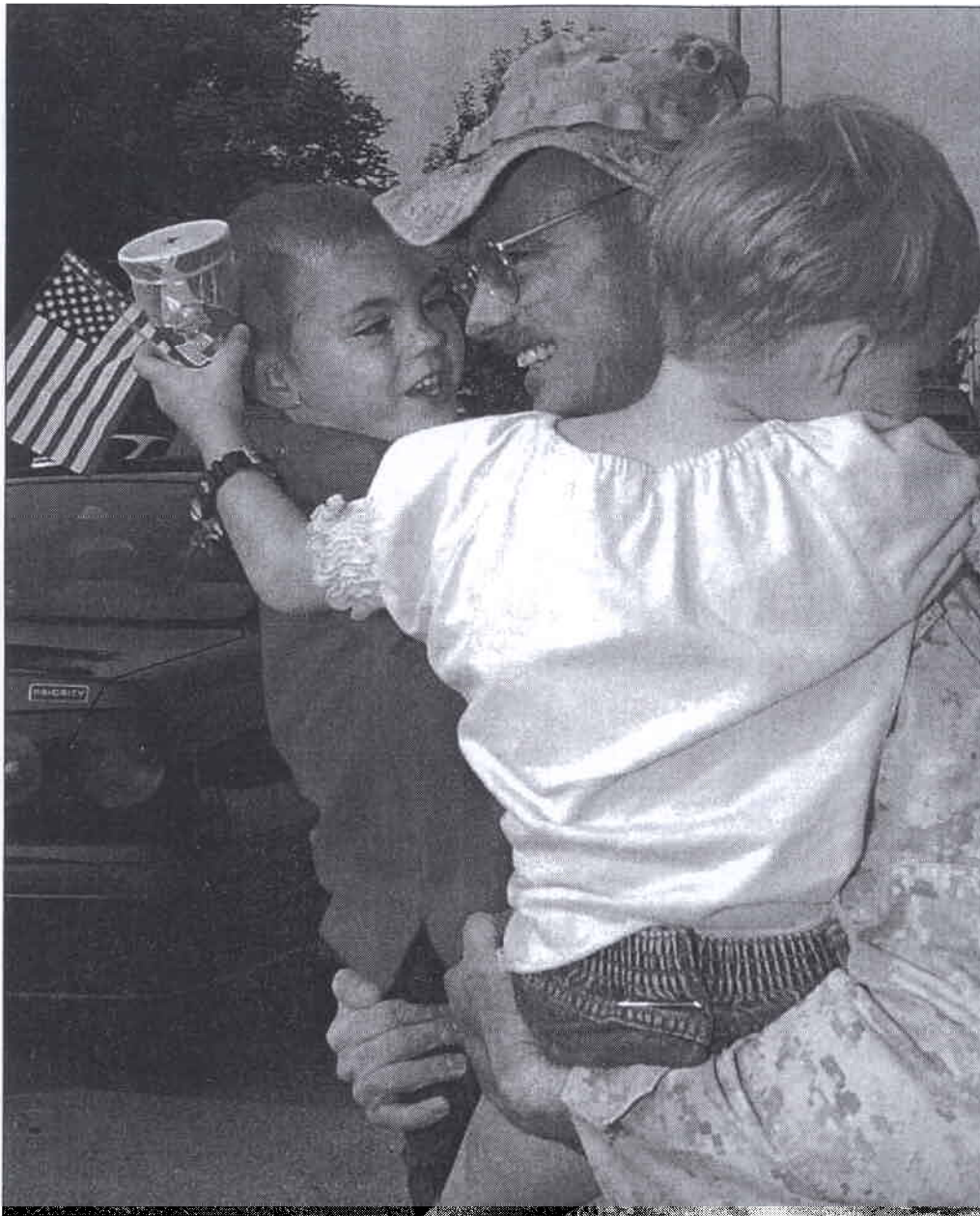
"Not only do they, first and foremost, provide command and control communications for operations — probably just as important to a lot of folks out there is the morale and welfare aspect, which makes it a little easier to stay in touch with the families."

While they were deployed, the MWCS-28 Spartans provided communications support to the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

They also provided detachments to units, including the 22nd and 24th Marine Expeditionary Units, in support of combat operations throughout Iraq.

Contact Pat Coleman at [pat\\_coleman@link.freedom.com](mailto:pat_coleman@link.freedom.com).

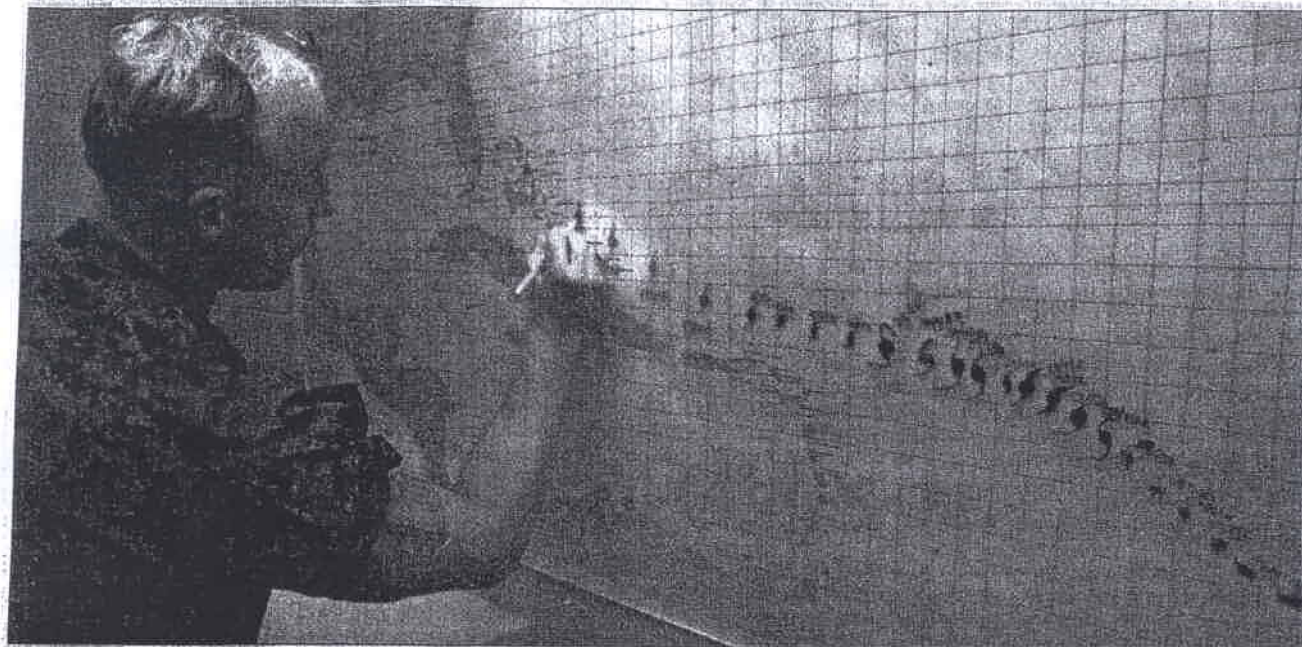
## Welcome home



Tom Boné/Havelock News

**Marine Staff Sergeant Phillip M. Cummings is greeted by his children, Patrick, left, and Marissa after returning to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point Tuesday morning. Cummings returned with a detachment from Marine Wing Communication Squadron 28 following a six-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Approximately 125 Marines of MWCS-28's Bravo Company will be greeted by family and friends.**





Plotting the course: Weather forecaster Sgt. Eric Hoffman puts the location of Hurricane Frances on a chart at New River Air Station Tuesday. THE DAILY NEWS/RANDY DAVEY

# Tracking the wild weather

## Marines rely on several sources to watch storms

■ **FLORIDIANS PREPARE**  
for another direct hit / 2A

BY DIANE MOUSKOURIE  
DAILY NEWS STAFF

Sgt. Eric Hoffman once tracked tidal waves in Okinawa, Japan. Now, he tracks hurricanes at New River Air Station for the base's weather station.

For the past three years, Hoffman and others on his team have relied on information garnered from HURREVAC, a computer software program developed in Charleston, S.C., by Seaware Software Inc. John Townsend, company president, said the software updates forecast storm data and then displays the storm's track in various formats. The software is free to any government agency.

Hoffman said the Marines use HURREVAC as a what-if tool to help determine courses of action when hurricanes like the current one, Frances, are advancing toward the southeastern United States. His crew uses information gathered by the hurricane hunters with the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

For information about forecasting hurricanes and other storm research, the Web site of the Hurricane Research Division of the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory, [www.aoml.noaa.gov/hrd](http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/hrd), is a good resource.

For local advisories, forecasts and information, the Hurricane Tracker at the Freedom ENC Web site, [www.enctoday.com/hurricane](http://www.enctoday.com/hurricane), is updated frequently with news stories, maps and photos. Freedom ENC is an affiliate of The Daily News.

Other helpful sites include [www.hurricanecity.com](http://www.hurricanecity.com), which has a link to a live broadcast of the Weather Audio Broadcast Network; [weather.unisys.com/hurricane/index.html](http://weather.unisys.com/hurricane/index.html), which includes several constantly updated maps, satellite images and model forecasts; and [tropical.atmos.colostate.edu/forecasts](http://tropical.atmos.colostate.edu/forecasts), the home page of the Tropical Meteorology Project at Colorado State University.

For children, the Miami Museum of Science has an interactive hurricanes page at [www.miamisci.org/hurricane](http://www.miamisci.org/hurricane).

Those who want to be even more ambitious can purchase a weather station and install it on their property. Weather stations, which can include a thermome-

ter and a barometer to measure air pressure, cost between \$75 and \$300, said Steve Freeman, owner of the Brass Binnacle in Swansboro.

Fancier models can also include a hygrometer to measure humidity and a tide clock to keep track of the tides.

Weather stations sell pretty well year round, Freeman said, though hurricane season, which runs from May to November, seems to create more interest in weather monitoring.

"We ship them constantly, but when the hurricanes come around, people seem to want to monitor them more," said Freeman, who also sells the stations online at [www.brassbinnacle.com](http://www.brassbinnacle.com).

A variety of weather tracking software is also available. The software applications can help users make high-resolution weather maps, track storms as they develop and even create their own forecasts.

A list of weather software is online at the University of Michigan's Web site, [cirrus.sprl.umich.edu/wxnet/software.html](http://cirrus.sprl.umich.edu/wxnet/software.html).